

English for Life: Listening (I)

Unit	Topic	Accents	Before you listen	Key phrases	Language	Listening exercises	Audio
1	Your family	English / American	Think about your family structure / do you come from a large family? / are you close to your family?	Did you say you had ten siblings? / How are you related to ... ? / She is my niece, the daughter of my sister. / I got married-divorced-remarried twenty years ago. / My uncle is a widower. His wife died last year. / We've always been a very close family. / I have a number of close relatives.	Talking about recurring events / COBUILD check: family relationships / COBUILD check: close / using 'imagine' and 'suppose'	Comprehension questions / fill in the gaps / true and false exercise /	2 tracks
2	Your home town	American / English	Think about the best way to describe your home town / would you focus on landscape, people, atmosphere?	I've always lived around that area. / He grew up in Chicago's western suburbs. / The street where she lived was on the outskirts of the city. / The buildings in the inner city tend to be ... / It's a smallish community.	Present passive continuous / talking about the past and the future / COBUILD check: town and country / UK-US transport vocabulary	True and false exercise / fill in the gaps / match vocabulary with meaning	2 tracks
3	Your country	New Zealand / Chinese	What features of your country are unique? / How would you compare it to other countries that you've visited?	Australia and New Zealand are quite different, even terrain-wise. / I too was expecting them to be quite similar. / Australia looks more barren, but it's really beautiful. / There are quite a lot of Asians that have come from Japan and Malaysia. / The indigenous people in Australia have been there for a very, very long time. / The children come from a variety of religious	Talking about your home country / modifying language / COBUILD check: people / COBUILD check: culture	True and false questions / Fill in the gaps / underline any that are difficult to understand	2 tracks
4	Housing and accommodation	English / Indian	How would you talk about the jobs that need to be done in your home on a daily basis? / How would you describe where you live to someone coming to stay?	How many bedrooms did you say there were in the house? / Is there a separate bathroom? / Is there much wardrobe space? / It was a fine terraced house with three stone steps up to the front door. / You have household help. You have someone to cook for you. / We recently hired a handyman to do some work.	Vocabulary related to housing and accommodation / COBUILD check: housing / COBUILD check: help in the home / housing and repetition	Comprehension exercises based on the audio tracks / fill in the gaps exercises	2 tracks
5	Adapting to local customs	Indian / English / American	Have you ever moved country or town? / How would you describe the experience of adapting? / What would you do to get the most from such an experience in the future?	You have to fit in with this culture in order to get on. / I tried to adapt to the way of life. / All immigrants ... face the challenge of adjusting their native culture and customs. / I really made an effort to integrate. / We weren't expecting such a warm reception. / We should celebrate the traditional culture here.	COBUILD check: fitting in / COBUILD check: feeling welcome / colloquial language	True and false statements / fill in the gaps exercise / matching verbs with meanings / comprehension questions	3 tracks
6	Tourist information	South Africa / English / Scottish	Think about where you like to go on holiday / How do you find out about places that you'd like to visit? / Do you enjoy being a tourist?	The museum has become one of the city's most popular tourist attractions. / You might have to book in advance. / We have time for some sightseeing and shopping. / It's definitely recommended. / I recommend taking the cable car. / I was wondering if ... ? / Could you tell me ... ? / Would it be okay? / That would be great. / When did you say ...	COBUILD check: being a tourist / uses of 'recommend' / polite language / COBUILD check: tourist attractions / getting used to different accents and pronunciation	True or false exercises / complete the phrases / general comprehension questions / fill in the gaps	2 tracks
7	Hotel information	American	Do you often stay in hotels, guests houses or B&Bs? / Think about what you look for when choosing where to stay / Do you require certain facilities?	Do you guys have any suites available? / Do you guys have adjoining rooms? / I'd like to know the different options that are available. / If we did hire a car, how long would it take to drive to the hotel? / If I did order a continental breakfast, would it be included in the room price? / Take a cab from the airport to the hotel. / The regular airport shuttle bus takes about twenty minutes.	Informal language / everyday hotel vocabulary / use of 'did' in conditional sentence / COBUILD check: getting in from the airport	General comprehension questions / fill in key information / true and false statements / detailed comprehension exercises	2 tracks
8	Staying in a hotel	Australian / Scottish	Do you have special preferences when staying in a hotel? / Do you find it easy to complain if necessary? / Are you polite or aggressive when you complain?	I have a reservation in the name of ... / Do you need my passport? / I'd like a quiet room away from the lifts. / Does the room have ... ? / Can I see the room please? / Do you offer late check-out? / If you wish to order room service ... / When you reach your room, your luggage will already be there. / There seems to be a problem with the shower. / The air conditioning doesn't seem to be working. / She led us to a room with a balcony overlooking the harbour.	Checking wishes and requests / checking into a hotel / COBUILD check: hotel check-in / COBUILD check: hotel rooms - locations / uses of 'seem'	True and false questions / Fill in the gaps / Comprehension exercises / Matching words and phrases from audio	2 tracks
9	Phone transactions	English	Have you ever used an automated phone system? Did you like it? Do you prefer speaking to a person or an automated phone system?	Advance booking is highly recommended. / This includes a credit card handling fee of £2.50. / Please stay on the line. / Please wait while I check availability for you. / Thank you for waiting. / Please key in your card number followed by hash. / You've chosen the <i>Tree of Life</i> . / I'll pick you up at 8 o'clock. / Where would you like me to drop you off? / You'll also have unlimited access to the swimming pool and gym. / The package includes a phone and ...	COBUILD check: processing bookings / the imperative, the present perfect, and 'will in bookings' / using 'pick up' and 'drop off' / COBUILD check: inclusive features	True and false exercise / fill in the gaps / match vocabulary with meaning / Fill in the gaps / Match nouns in audio with synonyms	2 tracks
10	Face-to-face transactions	English / British-Indian	How do you check politely that you've understood? / How do you ask someone to repeat information?	I definitely want a phone that has the internet. / I'm not really sure about ... / I'd prefer to have ... / I'm not keen on ... / I need something that ... / The company's free app is simple. / Developers can directly upload their apps. / How many dollars are there on the yen? / What is the current rate of the euro against the ... / Do you take commission? / You need to take US dollars. / We could give you ... / I would like to buy ... / Could I have ... ?	Expressing preferences / COBUILD check: phone applications / advice, recommendations and requests / COBUILD check: foreign currency	General comprehension questions / Complete the phrases / Fill in the gaps / True and false exercise / Complete the sentences	2 tracks
11	Announcements	Scottish / English / Australian	Do you have problems understanding public announcements? If so, what happened?	Mobile phones must be switched off at all times. / Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. / ... in a couple of minutes. / ... In ten minutes. / ... some time soon. / ... later this morning. / Shortly. / ... immediately. / Move along the platform. / Stand behind the yellow lines. / Please stand clear of the doors. / Let the passengers off.	COBUILD check: at the theatre / expressions of future time / vocabulary for railways and trains / COBUILD check: transport announcements	Comprehension exercises / Complete the gaps / Match words and phrases from audio with synonyms / True and false exercise	3 tracks

12	School days	English / Scottish	Describe the school system in your country. / Did you enjoy school? / What do you think of boarding school?	Usually, you attend ... / In elementary school, I was really shy. / The policy applies to students in Grade 1 through senior high school. / I went to high school for seven years ... If I was in Scotland, I would have gone for six years. / If I lived in Scotland, I would go to high school for six years / I went to boarding school from the age of seven. / My parents were moving around. / We would occasionally ... / I remember it being difficult. / I must remember to call John later.	Word order for emphasis / COBUILD check: stages of education / conditional forms / talking about past events and actions / using 'remember'	General comprehension questions / Complete the phrases / True and false exercise / Match adjectives with synonyms	3 tracks
13	Preparing for work	English / American	Think about higher education in your country / At what age do people usually leave school? / Describe your experience of third-level education	You will be expected to attend all tutorials. / I worked hard for my degree. / Learn to relax and take things easy. / It was very much about the social side. / You were there because you wanted to be there. / It was about leaving home for the first time. / And then it all - it all changed. / I got a job straight out of college as a copywriter. / It is difficult to get a job, regardless of how well educated you are.	COBUILD check: studying / emphatic language / COBUILD check: getting a job	True and false exercises / Matching phrases with words in audio / general comprehension exercises / Complete the phrases	3 tracks
14	Working life	English / Australian	Describe your everyday work and routines / What would be your ideal job?	It has a few years of hard work and meticulous planning. / He was an extremely conscientious worker. / Your ability to compose rigorous and systematic evaluations is crucial. / A performance review - that's what we call an assessment. / What I mean by that is ... / PPR stands for Performance Practice Review. / Could you say more about ... ? / It was a wide-ranging job. / It makes my job very rewarding. / Mark's job consists of looking after guests at his hotel.	COBUILD check: paying attention to detail / clarifying a word or phrase / COBUILD check: attitudes to work / using 'consist of' / Business jargon	General comprehension questions / Identify business jargon / Complete the gaps / True and false exercise / Match verbs from recording with synonyms	3 tracks
15	Learning and using English	German / Austrian / Ghanaian	Think about learning English. What difficulties have you encountered? Why did you start learning it?	Learning and teaching are enriching experiences for both student and teacher. / The language learning process is innately rewarding. / It was a very exhausting experience just to have a conversation. / There was a lot of talk at the conference about globalization and stuff. / You need to rid of some stuff.	COBUILD check: learning a language / informal language and slang / filler language	True or false exercises / Complete the gaps / Put phrases from audio in the correct order / General comprehension questions / Detailed comprehension exercise / Matching speaker's phrases to 'standard' English statements	3 tracks
16	Hobbies and interest	English	What are your hobbies and special interests? / Describe them in a way that makes them seem interesting to a listener	I'm always going on about food. / I was always getting people to ask me. / How did you make that? Is there anything you don't eat? I'm a vegetarian. / I'm allergic to seafood. / She writes a daily blog. / Most politicians tweet to promote themselves. / I did ring him. / I really did understand what she said. / I'm constantly listening to music. / I would love to go. / He is the singer in a successful rock band. / The group played a gig last night.	Using the continuous form of the verb / COBUILD check: social networking / vocabulary and phrases related to cooking / using 'did' to emphasize past actions and thoughts / showing enthusiasm / COBUILD check: music	General comprehension questions / Complete the gaps / Complete the phrases / True and false exercises / Detailed comprehension exercise	3 tracks
17	Socializing	English / Irish	Do you prefer socializing with family and all friends? How do you meet new people? Do you use the internet to meet and stay in touch?	I try to socialize with my colleagues. / He enjoys partying with friends. / I got to the office at 9 am. / I get invited to a lot of parties. / I usually get the train to work. / We were all asked to donate something. / The kids had made scarecrows. / Everyone had worked so hard setting everything up. / If you would like to make a donation, please fill in ... / The proceeds from the event go to charity.	COBUILD check: being sociable / using 'get' / active and passive tenses / COBUILD check: charity and charities / vocabulary related to the village fete	True and false exercise / Complete the gaps / Match phrase with correct ending / General comprehension questions / Rewrite sentences in the passive	2 tracks
18	Keeping fit and healthy	English / New Zealand	How do you keep fit? Do you go to the gym? Do you eat a good diet?	Good, that's useful. / Okay, perfect. That sounds great. / Great, thank you very much. / After you've finished your workout, then you'd probably eat something. / I would try and get over to them. / Regular exercise helps to combat unwanted stress. / After a strenuous workout, you get a great feeling of well-being. / I am trying to lose weight. / I need to avoid fatty foods. / I try to exercise three times a week.	Agreement and reinforcement / giving advice / COBUILD check: fitness and exercise / vocabulary relating to weight and diet	General comprehension exercises / Complete the sentences / Focus on pronunciation / True and false exercises / Match verbs used with synonyms	3 tracks
19	Eating in and eating out	English / Irish / New Zealand	Do you prefer eating at home or in a restaurant? / Do you like trying new foods?	I was a little bit nervous of going in. / I wasn't quite sure what I was going to find. / I was a bit self-conscious. / Last weekend we met our old neighbours that we used to live beside. / We used to have a lot of dinner parties. / We could meet for a drink after work. / We tend to meet up for lunch once a week.	Vocabulary related to food preparation / expressing emotions / using 'used to' / COBUILD check: meet	General comprehension questions / Complete the gaps / Rewrite sentences into the passive / Match sentence order to audio	3 tracks
20	Sport	English / Polish / French-Canadian	What are your favourite sports? Do you prefer playing or watching?	Stock-car racing is one of America's largest spectator sports. / Hockey is a contact sport. / As a child, I was always very sporty. / Cross-country skis are finer than normal skis. / Scuba gear can be rented from ... / When it opens, it will be Europe's largest football stadium. / It boasted a championship golf course and a gymnasium.	COBUILD check: sport, sports equipment, sports venues / vocabulary related to playing sport	True and false exercise / Match words from recording with definition / General comprehension exercise / Understanding speaker's accent and grammar / Complete the phrases / Detailed comprehension exercises	3 tracks